

# Columbia Missourian

70th Year — No. 36

Good Morning! It's Thursday, Oct. 27, 1977

2 Sections — 18 Pages — 15 Cents

Postal officials say  
problems remedied

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## Joint panel approves solar energy loans

WASHINGTON (UPI) — House and Senate negotiators agreed Wednesday on a \$100 million program offering low-interest loans to those who install solar energy devices at home, but killed a "vanpool" ride-sharing program President Carter had proposed to save fuel.

The negotiators predicted they would have the first section of the new energy bill, the conservation segment, virtually complete by Thursday evening.

The solar loan program approved by the House-Senate conference committee is designed to spur solar energy use in American homes by providing families with cut-rate financing on loans of as much as \$8,000 for equipment and installation.

"I think it's \$100 million well spent," said Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M.

In adopting the loan program compromise, House conferees agreed to a provision initiated by the Senate. But in the committee's rejection of the vanpool program, the victory belonged to the House.

Under the vanpool program — one of the relatively few parts of Carter's energy plan which the full Senate supported — the government was to buy as many as 6,000 vans and give them to federal bureaucrats to share rides to and from work. Drivers who got the vans were to collect operating expenses from riders.

Sen. John Durkin, D-N.H., said it was "an asinine program" and suggested that Senate conferees give in to their House colleagues, who opposed the program. His suggestion was adopted.

Conferees also approved a \$75 million program to provide all federal buildings with energy saving equipment by 1990; agreed to a federal study of possible conservation improvements for recreational motor vehicles, boats and airplanes; and expanded the mandatory reporting of energy use for industries.

The sharpest battle of the day was triggered by a Senate proposal that would overturn part of the Clean Air Act by prohibiting a governor from ordering, with the President's ap-

proval, utility companies in his state to burn local coal to keep miners working. Final action was postponed until Thursday.

The committee postponed choosing between the Senate's \$39 million program and the House's \$98 million program for demonstrating solar electric cells. Conferees also delayed decisions on how to guarantee that minority communities benefit from energy programs and on setting mandatory gasoline mileage standards for cars.

Senate and House committee leaders predicted everything will be finished Thursday except the mandatory auto fuel standards. They said that issue will be postponed until next month, when conferees plan to take up the related issue of a tax on gas-guzzling cars.

The solar loan program was approved by the conference committee after only 34 minutes of deliberation. It was the second program involving low-interest conservation loans the panel has put together.

## Danforth seeks answers to U.S. energy problem

By Randy McConnell  
Washington reporting program

WASHINGTON — Sen. John Danforth reaches for a thin, brown notebook when questioned about the Senate's recent maneuverings on the Carter administration's energy package.

The notebook holds much information, but no solutions, the Missouri Republican says. Nor does he look to administration officials or oil lobbyists or Washington think-tanks for the answers to America's energy crunch.

"I'm not really sure anyone has the answers," Danforth said in an interview. "When I'm sitting around on the Finance Committee and people are talking about the energy savings from this or that proposal, and I ask them what confidence they have in their figures or what the standard deviations are, nobody knows."

With no firm facts on hand, Danforth has cast many of his votes on the energy package reluctantly. He's not

really sure how to slow the dwindling of the nation's energy resources.

He's turned to the classical economic doctrine of the free marketplace to shape his votes, which have helped dismantle the administration package in the Senate and the Finance Committee. "It's a philosophical question: Do you believe in the marketplace or don't you — given that there is a competitive marketplace," he said.

### Insight

Armed with that belief, he voted on the Senate floor to deregulate onshore natural gas immediately and offshore natural gas in five years. "We've had artificially low (gas) prices that created artificially limited supply and artificially high demand," he said. "I think we ought to be abandoning the artificiality for a freer market."

Danforth coupled his stand for deregulation with the need for an excess profits tax on the energy industry.

"I believe it's a must, if only to give the public a sense of confidence that we're not going to have, as Carter says, war profiteers. We've got to have assurances that there's going to be substantial reinvestment (by oil companies) in production (of energy)."

Asked if an excess profits tax did not contradict his free market stand, Danforth replied, "There's lots of contradictions in life."

He also defended the oil and gas industry's ability to operate in the free market, despite nationwide regulation of local suppliers and OPEC control of oil imports. "I'm not convinced that we have a cartel," he added.

In the Finance Committee, he sided with the majority, which voted for tax credits to encourage production rather than the administration proposals for new taxes to force conservation.

Danforth said he rejected the administration package because it fell at least a million barrels short of meeting Carter's goal — cutting of crude oil

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Steven R. Coon

### Autumn shroud

Wednesday's early morning fog descends upon the MFA granary on Paris Road. The fog cleared later in the day and the temperature climbed to a high of 68 degrees F (20 degrees C). Today's

weather promises to be even more pleasant, with a high of 75 F (24 C) expected. For more weather information, see Page 10A.

## Vaccine for fighting pneumonia strain proves successful

N.Y. Times Service

NEW YORK — Successful testing of a vaccine in children against a major cause of pneumonia, meningitis and ear infections that can cause deafness was reported Wednesday by medical scientists in California.

The vaccination was against bacteria called pneumococci, the most common cause of bacterial pneumonia throughout the world and one of the most common causes of meningitis, a dangerous inflammation of membranes that enclose the brain.

Most of the 77 children vaccinated were sufferers of sickle cell anemia, a serious blood disorder that primarily affects blacks. Sickle cell anemia patients have a high risk of pneumococcal infection.

The vaccinations were given about three years ago, and the results of the research at the University of California, San Francisco, were reported Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

An accompanying editorial in the journal said there were an estimated half-million pneumococcal pneumonias a year in the United States and that pneumococcal otitis media, an ear infection, was one of the most common bacterial infections of infancy and early childhood.

The pneumococci, considered particularly dangerous to young children and the elderly, have recently caused concern among public health experts because of reports from South Africa that the

bacteria have developed virtually total resistance to penicillin and several other antibiotic drugs.

A child who has sickle cell anemia usually loses the function of the spleen, the organ that traps and destroys pneumococci in the blood, said Dr. Arthur J. Ammann of the University of California, San Francisco.

One of the purposes of the research was to establish whether the vaccine would protect children with this immunologic impairment. Several other patients who had previously lost their spleens through accident or necessary surgery also were tested. Generally these patients developed protective antibodies against the bacteria as well as normal persons did.

Another key reason for the study, said Dr. Ammann, who led the research, is that sickle cell patients have roughly 200 to 300 times greater than normal risk of infection.

His co-authors in the report were Drs. Joseph Addiego, Diane W. Wara, Bertram Lubin, W. Bryon Smith and William C. Mentzer.

In the journal the scientists said none of those vaccinated developed an infection with the bacteria during the two years after vaccination. However, there were eight such infections and two deaths among 106 closely matched children who had not received the vaccine. Dr. Amann said the period of follow-up had been extended to three years. There have still been no pneumococcal infections among the vaccinated, but a total of 10 among the others.

## Phenformin ban raises questions

By Mark Cowing  
Missourian staff writer

Today is the fourth day the Food and Drug Administration ban on phenformin, a drug used to treat mild diabetes, has been in effect. Yet the drug can still be found on the shelves of Columbia pharmacies, and no one knows exactly why.

Have pharmacists been directed to exhaust existing supplies or has marketing been cut off completely? If a physician decides phenformin is the only drug applicable to a patient's condition, what then? Has a recall of the drug been issued?

Columbia pharmacists are asking the same questions.

But the FDA and the drug's manufacturers don't seem to have the answers.

Citing an "imminent hazard to public health," Secretary of Health,

Education and Welfare Joseph A. Califano Jr. on July 25 ordered phenformin off the market. Phenformin had been prescribed since 1959 to lower blood-sugar levels in adults who were not dependent on insulin, and at the time of the order 350,000 diabetics were using the drug.

Califano's order invoked for the first time an emergency provision of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act allowing him to halt the sale of a drug summarily, bypassing hearings or appeals on the matter. All subsequent regulatory actions are assigned to the FDA. Califano allowed a 90-day phaseout period, which expired last Sunday, to permit an orderly transfer of patients to other therapy.

However, in an FDA bulletin issued in August, the administration defined a "small group" of diabetics "for whom the benefits of phenformin clearly outweigh the risks" and said "every

attempt (would) be made to devise a workable mechanism to make phenformin available to patients meeting these criteria." Therefore, a recall of the drug was not ordered by Califano or issued by the FDA.

The drug's manufacturers, Ciba-Geigy Corp. and USV Pharmaceutical Corp., issued instructions to individual pharmacists informing them of the status of the issue. Geigy, which supplies most of the pharmacists in Columbia, sent a mailgram July 28 which promised to keep the pharmacists "promptly informed of all developments in this matter." USV sent a similar letter Aug. 15.

Since that time, pharmacists have received no further directives.

So far that has been no problem since virtually all patients were switched to alternative medication within the 90-day phaseout period, and no Columbia pharmacist surveyed has received a

## Landlord, tenant groups ask city to step up housing code checks

By Betty Connor  
Missourian staff writer

Landlord and tenant groups agreed Wednesday night to send to the City Council a resolution urging the city to step up its housing code enforcement efforts.

The resolution was presented by Klifton Altis of the Columbia Apartment Council and Richard Knipp of Knipp Construction Co. It was the main feature of what one tenant group representative called a "very productive meeting" between the two groups trying to work out a mutually agreeable mechanism to check inadequate housing in the city.

Sue Rice of the Missouri Students Association said the groups discussed

problems with their voluntary housing code enforcement plan "without casting the blame on anyone."

That plan called for complaints to be screened by one of the tenant groups and then forwarded to a landlords' representative, who would seek corrective action. Many tenants, however, proved reluctant to use the mechanism for fear of eviction or other reprisals by their landlords.

The tenant groups also complained that the landlord group refused to supply names of the owners of the rental properties covered by the plan.

However, Ms. Rice said after Wednesday night's meeting, "We're working on the same thing. We may approach it from different directions."

Four representatives of tenant

groups agreed to join in the resolution proposed by the landlords.

The landlords agreed to support the tenants' push to reconvene Mayor Les Proctor's ad hoc housing committee of landlords, tenants and city officials, Ms. Rice said. The tenants recently sent a letter to Proctor asking him to call the group together to resume discussion of housing code enforcement mechanisms. The group last met in early July.

Ms. Rice said the resolution will not affect a drive by the tenant groups for licensing or some other city-enforced rental housing control.

The resolution will be sent to the council after some minor technical corrections are made. The council's next meeting is Nov. 7.

### In town today

9 a.m. Boone County Court meets, fifth floor, County-City Building.

3:40 p.m. "Henrick Ibsen: Prophet of Modern Liberation," by Rolf Fjelde, symposium, 210 General Classroom Building, University.

7 p.m. Columbia Parks and Recreation Commission meets, Parks and Recreation Building.

7 p.m. Columbia Personnel Advisory Board meets, fourth floor conference room, County-City Building.

7:30 p.m. Boone County Court meets, County Court chamber, County-City Building.

8 p.m. Charlie Daniels Band, Ice Chalet.

8:15 p.m. Beax Arts Trio, University Fine Arts Recital Hall.

Exhibits  
See Sunday's Vibrations magazine for complete exhibit schedules.

Movie listings on Page 11A